



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

Serving the 7th District | P.O. Box 30036 | Lansing, MI 48909
PHONE: (517) 373-7350 | TOLL FREE: 1-866-262-7307 | FAX: (517) 373-9228
WEB: www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson | E-MAIL: senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov



Need something to do this summer?

Your State Capitol is a great place to visit! Here, children from Bates School visit the Capitol and get a chance to meet Senator Patterson. Besides visiting the Capitol itself, the Michigan Historical Museum provides a great look at Michigan history. These are just a couple of ways to beat the heat this summer! For other ideas for summer fun, visit <http://www.michigan.org/travel/>

Additionally, the Canton Liberty Festival and Belleville Strawberry Festival are being held this weekend. Senator Patterson is sure to be seen attending many of the events. Find information at these links below

http://www.canton-mi.org/special_projects/libertyfest.asp

<http://www.nationalstrawberryfest.com/index.html>

Flag Day is this week!

Don't forget that this Wednesday, June 14, is Flag Day. This day has been set aside to recognize that in 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes pattern for our flag. To learn some flag etiquette, visit the link below for information:

<http://senate.michigan.gov/patterson/Patterson.USA.flag.pdf>

Have a plan for your pets, too!

It has been brought to our attention that our last edition neglected to provide information on how to prepare your pets for an emergency. The two links below provide great information on how to have a plan for your pets as well.

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm>

http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pa_care_issues_safety_disaster

Olympic Skaters to be honored at Capitol

Olympic medal winning skaters Ben Agosto and Tanith Belbin will be honored at the State Capitol this week, Thursday, June 15. The skaters train at the Arctic Edge in Canton. Senator Patterson will recognize their accomplishments before the Michigan Senate.

Veterans to get tax help

Legislation was introduced in the Senate this week to help veterans by increasing income tax credits for disabled servicepersons and veterans, or their widow or widower. Senate Bill 1297 provides a \$2,000 increase to the basis for computing a tax credit for disabled servicepersons and veterans, or their surviving spouses. Currently, those eligible are able to claim an income tax credit equal to a factor set in law divided by the taxable value of their homestead. As a result, an individual's tax credit decreases over time as property values increase.

Work on Energy Plan Continues

Senator Patterson is continuing to work with a variety of experts on a long range energy plan for Michigan. Two recent news articles about this work may interest you and can be found at the links below:

<http://freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060610/BUSINESS06/606100318&SearchID=73247441338544>

<http://www.observer-eccentric.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060608/NEWS27/606080713&SearchID=73247441399810>

Splish, Splash ~ Boater Safety and Fishing Information

Information on boater safety and helpful fishing guidelines can be found at

<http://senate.michigan.gov/patterson/news/may2006/2006%20Boating%20&%20Fishing%20Guide.pdf>

Furthermore, legislation that would make it a crime for anyone who tampers with or steals a marine-safety device maintained by a state or local government is headed to the governor's desk.

The bills would make it a misdemeanor for anyone who tampers with or steals a marine-safety device maintained by the state or a local government. If a person dies or becomes permanently disabled because the device was unavailable or unusable, the offender can be found guilty of a felony.

Summer Driving Safety Tip

There is a debate occurring at the Capitol as to the need for signs reminding drivers that the left lane is for passing and the right lane is for traveling.

Perhaps what many motorists do not know is that there are laws to obey when encountering a tow truck, police or fire vehicle, or ambulance on any public roadway. If the road has at least two adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction of the emergency vehicle, the driver is to proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way by moving into a lane at least one moving lane or two vehicle widths apart from the emergency vehicle. However, if the road does not have at least two adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction as the emergency vehicle; or if the driver cannot move safely due to weather, road conditions, or the immediate presence of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, the driver is to reduce and maintain a safe speed. Please remember this to help keep those that provide needed emergency services safe.

Steroid Ban Passed the Senate

Bills to help prevent steroid use by student athletes passed the Senate this past week. The bills prohibit steroids from within 1,000 feet of school property.

Office Hours schedule for June 2006

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am to 1 pm.

June 12th -- Woodhaven City Hall, 21869 West Road, Woodhaven

June 19th -- Flat Rock Library, 25200 Gibraltar Road, Flat Rock

June 26th -- Huron Twp. Hall, 22950 Huron River Drive, Huron Twp
– This will be in their new building.

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >. You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you!

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!